

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:170
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
FREQUENCY OF MOBILE TOWERS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase frequency of Mobile Towers in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether the subscribers are facing hardships due to low frequency of Mobiles Towers in Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d) The License conditions, inter-alia, provides that in Telecom Circle Service Areas, at least 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. Coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. The District Headquarters shall be taken as on the effective date of License. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

In addition to the above, the operators are also required to meet the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

The number of mobile towers to be installed in any service area depends on the coverage planned by the respective mobile operator. Expansion of mobile network by installing additional towers is an ongoing process. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to install about 660 additional mobile base stations in Madhya Pradesh during this financial year i.e. 2005-06, which is likely to be available progressively by first quarter of 2006-07. Further around 800 new mobile base stations are planned in Madhya Pradesh in next financial year i.e. 2006-07.

As reported by most of the mobile operators of Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle Service Areas, adequate number of towers have been provided for mobile service in Madhya Pradesh and QoS benchmarks prescribed by TRAI are being met.